Per- and Polyfluoroalky Substances (PFAS) in New Hampshire

- The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) has been very proactive investigating incidents of PFAS contamination of private and public wells and other media;
- Concerns with possible drinking water contamination in the state were first raised by the Saint Gobain Manufacturing Plant in Merrimack NH where ground water contamination was detected.
- Since 2016, the state stepped up to monitor more than 3,000 sources of drinking water in surrounding communities including Merrimack and Litchfield NH, and conducted follow up actions such as providing bottled water to more than 600 homes.
- Three public water supply sources in NH are contaminated over PFAS health standards.
- In the southern region of NH, groundwater has been contaminated over 30-40 square miles.
- Contaminated private drinking water wells will be hooked up to the regional public water system.
- Over $40 million has been allocated for addressing PFAS at a few sites.
- The state broadened their investigation to cover potential PFAS sources such as landfills and fire stations, and tested other contaminated media including wastewater treatment plant effluent, groundwater discharges, and air stack residues.
- In May 2016, EPA Office of Water released health advisories for 2 PFAS (PFOA and PFOS) which formed the benchmark for the state drinking water investigations.
- For years, EPA Region 1 has assisted the state, providing sampling and testing support at about 10 potential PFAS sites, and working closely on emerging analytical methodologies and laboratory quality assurance and control.
- Region 1 led PFAS investigations at Coakley Landfill, a superfund site, and issued an emergency order for Pease Air Force Base, a federal facility, which requires groundwater treatment for contaminated public water supply wells in Portsmouth NH.